

Assemblymember Christine Kehoe



*Brings You News
From Sacramento*

October 17, 2003



Assemblymember Christine Kehoe, Speaker Pro Tem

Legislative Update: Bills signed by Governor Davis

I wanted to give you an update of some of my bills that were recently signed into law.

AB 17 prohibits state agencies from entering into a contract worth \$100,000 or more with businesses that do not offer domestic partners benefits.

Thirty to forty percent of employee compensation comes in the form of health, dental, vision, bereavement leave, pension and retirement benefits. The State of California does not discriminate in providing benefits to an employee with a spouse or an employee with a domestic partner. This legislation ensures that our state only does business with contractors who are willing to make the same commitment to employees with domestic partners. Public tax dollars being spent by state agencies to contract for goods and services must not subsidize workplace discrimination. I commend Governor Davis for signing this historic measure.

AB 514 requires the areas of Fresno and Folsom, which receive water from the Central Valley Project, to install and use water meters. Without this legislation requiring metering, these cities were in jeopardy of losing more than 80,000 acre feet of water annually, enough to supply a quarter million people.

San Diego, along with most California communities, has been using water meters for several decades as an effective means of conserving water. Studies show that the use of water meters, which track the actual amount of water a household or business uses, reduces water waste and promotes conservation – resulting in a twenty to fifty percent decrease in water consumption. The bill requires water supply contractors that receive Central Valley Project water to install water meters on all service connections to residential and nonagricultural commercial buildings by January 1, 2013 and requires water billing to be based on meter readings and actual volume of water used by March 1, 2013, or whenever required by a supplier's CVP contract.

AB 1340 requires oil producers to submit information on petroleum supplies to the California Energy Commission (CEC) on a more frequent (weekly instead of monthly) basis. The information is necessary to more accurately track inventories, imports, and exports – all of which will help the CEC more precisely determine the causes of the gasoline price spikes that California consumers feel the burden of every day. My bill will help the CEC collect more accurate information and make better information available to the public. It is a first step that seeks to get the necessary data to better determine why California's gas prices are so high, which will enable the CEC and the Legislature to find more informed solutions.

If you would like to view the text of these or any other bills, you may visit www.leginfo.ca.gov and search by author, bill number, or keyword.

Fifth Grade Essay Contest Underway

My Fifth Grade Essay Contest is on track. Contest information and details have been sent to all fifth grade classes in the 76th Assembly District. The theme this year is for students to write a persuasive letter to their school principal, the editor of the local newspaper, or their local Assemblymember (that's me!) regarding an issue that is important to them. The contest starts on October 1 and ends by 5 p.m. November 26. There will prizes for all students who submit an essay and grand prizes for the first, second, and third place winners. For more information please call my office or visit my web site at www.assembly.ca.gov/kehoe.

I look forward to the participation of students from throughout San Diego in this annual contest.

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Linda Vistan Recognized

I was honored to recognize Charles Johnson, a longtime resident of Linda Vista, at this week's Linda Vista Civic Association meeting. Charles has been active in the community for years. He was a founding member of the Linda Vista Civic Association, and has served as President of the Association twice before being elected to serve as the 2003/04 President. Thanks Charles, for all your hard work for the community of Linda Vista!



Assemblymember Kehoe recognizes Linda Vista Resident Charles Johnson

I also look forward to participating in the following upcoming community meetings:

October 22nd - Ocean Beach Town Council

Pacific Beach Recreation Center, 4276 Santa Monica

November 6th - Clairemont Town Council

Clairemont High School cafeteria, 4150 Ute Drive

November 19th - Tierrasanta Community Council

Tierrasanta Recreation Center, 11220 Clairemont Mesa Blvd.

More dates and locations to be announced!



Linda Vista Community Council meeting. Charles Johnson, Kehoe, Dorothy Perez, Councilmember Frye, and Reggie Smith (l-r).

Free Energy-Efficient Lighting at "Hooray for Hillcrest" Event

Help reduce your energy costs by exchanging your old halogen torchiere lamps (limit 2) and 75 watts or higher incandescent bulbs (limit 10) for FREE, new energy-efficient models.

WHEN: Sunday, October 19, 2003

WHERE: Village Hillcrest Shopping Center on 5th Avenue (next to 24-Hour Fitness)

TIME: 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Sponsored by SDG&E and the Hillcrest Association. For more information, call 1-800-411-SDGE.

Bureau of State Audits highlights need for structural reform

The Bureau of State Audits keeps an eye on government by ensuring the efficient management of public funds and programs.

In a recently released report, the Bureau questions a large portion of costs claimed by four local entities which could have resulted in the State having paid more than some local entities are entitled to. The state programs that were audited were the Peace Officers Bill of Rights and the animal adoption mandates. The audit found that the costs claimed by both mandates were significantly higher than what the Legislature expected, and the entities lacked adequate supporting documentation for many cost claims under the mandates. To read the entire report, go to <http://www.bsa.ca.gov/bsa/> and click on "Report 2003-106/State Mandates."

Reports such as these draw attention to the need to identify errors and ensure that state program costs are consistent with legislative and Commission intent, enabling us to continually evaluate and improve state programs and agencies.

The Bureau of State Audits is an external agency that provides independent and nonpartisan evaluations of governmental financial and operational activities. The Bureau's findings are published in reports that are open to the public and can be viewed through their website at www.bsa.ca.gov/bsa/.

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